

A. D. SHROFF COMMENTS ON THE UNION BUDGET

Speaking from the Swatantra Party platform, Bombay, Mr. A. D. Shroff, Mr. Masani, Mr. N. Dandekar and Mr. Murarji Vaidya discussed the budget.

MR. A. D. SHROFF said that, this budget does nothing to stimulate economic growth and give it a higher priority, nor does it create an atmosphere conducive to industrial expansion or provide direction and confidence which today the country deeply needs.

The eminent economist remarked that this budget had raised an unprecedented furore throughout the country, and said, "Those who ask us to accept this budget with a smile really mean that they welcome it with a smile. These budget proposals also provide for this class of people extensive opportunities for black marketing and tax evasion."

The merit of a well drawn up budget lies in the close proximity of estimates and the actuals, a proximity sadly lacking in our national budgets. Evincing his point, Mr. Shroff said, "I quote figures of last few years. In 1959-60 the revenue estimated was Rs. 780 crores and eventually the revenue actually accruing was Rs. 870 crores. There was a budgeted deficit of Rs. 60 crores, and at the end of the year it turned into surplus of Rs. 42 crores. In 1962-63 last year a budgeted deficit of Rs. 6 crores resulted in a surplus of Rs. 124 crores." Thus this gross under-estimation implied heavy taxation.

The increase in Customs duties on various imports and particularly on new plant and machinery disregards the very fundamentals of industrial productivity. In this country, the industrialist at the very outset suffers a set-back of 35% to 40% because of heavy over-head expenses. This retards expansion, and exports suffer, as the high cost price of our goods make them less attractive in competitive world markets.

The Super Tax will substantially reduce capital formation, and extra investment is unlikely to be large. Already a provision of the Income Tax Law which applies to private enterprise compels companies with small holdings to distribute the bulk of their profits as dividends.

Investments in our joint stock companies could be liquidated whenever the urgency arose. This Budget has practically eroded that liquidity. It is no credit to the Government of India that trading in their own stocks has practically ceased. Our fore-fathers harkened Government loans and gilt-edged securities.

Money is the crying need of the country today. Government expenditure should be severely curbed. It is significant that a recommendation that the Ministers should be given an allowance of Rs. 250 only, for their water and power bills was unanimously opposed by the members of the Cabinet. The Government of India has also decided that the allowances which could be considered excessive — so far

given to Cabinet Ministers are now to be paid to other Ministers also.

Mr. A. D. Shroff emphasised that today the country's most urgent need was a high power Commission composed of men of excellent character pattern after the Inchcape Commission.

Mr. A. D. Shroff said, "In my judgement, Mr. Morarji Desai's budget is an effort at sabotaging the economy of this country, and in all seriousness and with due sense of responsibility I invite the attention of the Home Minister of the Government of India to take notice of Mr. Morarji Desai's action in introducing the budget. The Finance Ministry has been notoriously known as the graveyard of many a political career, and I hope Mr. Morarji Desai is not going to be a new casualty."

MR. MINOO MASANI said that the budget obviously had an emotional backdrop obsessed by hatred. He said, "We know for ten years our Prime Minister has been obsessed by hatred of the Western democracies and a love for Communist dictatorships. This temperamental bias has coloured every aspect of our international relations," he added.

The proposed increase in the expenditure on Defence is Rs. 330 crores. America and England have offered arms and ammunition free, thus cutting the common man's burden by almost half. But this extra taxation has been imposed.

Profits over 6% were considered excessive for the first time in 1947 in the Liaquat Ali Khan Budget. At that time, the entire Congress Party including Mr. Masani who belonged to it then, opposed the budget in Parliament. Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, then a member of the Select Committee, was among the foremost to oppose it. This notorious Laif Ali Khan budget was later scrapped by the Congress party. The economic crisis caused by this budget will create a fertile breeding ground for Communism whose adherents form the fifth column of the Chinese.

"During the days of the Chinese attack last October, in a lucid moment our Prime Minister said, 'We are living out of touch with realities; we are living in a dream world and this attack has brought us down to the earth.' Unfortunately, that contact with reality did not last very long. It ended on November 20, when the Chinese Communists for reasons of their own stopped the attack on India."

The Swatantra Party is today contesting six by-elections and those who realise the debacle this country is facing should manifest their displeasure now and work wholeheartedly for the defeat of the Congress Candidates.

The funds of the Swatantra Party are severely strained. Give it your contribution and vote now.

Mr. N. DANDEKAR, President of the Maharashtra

and Bombay Regions of the Swatantra Party, said, "Within the last six months, the country has suffered three successive disasters — The Chinese aggression, the gold edict, and the budget. Together, they represent the culmination of a continuing failure of our foreign policy; the second particularly reflects totally misguided fiscal, monetary and economic policies. The budget proposals in their present form and magnitude will be calamitous. There will be a heavy premium on dishonesty and corruption will be established as the normal way."

Mr. Dandekar added, "This budget will stultify economic growth and shake the confidence of foreign investors and collaborators. Thus the greatest danger will be the quick drying up of this source of active and lively stimulus to the economy of this country. The President declared that it is totally untrue to suggest that the country must either abandon the very necessary objectives of defence and development or stomach the budget. Severe clipping of governmental expenditure would save the country crores."

MR. MURARJI VAIDYA said that, the budget is based on a twin approach to the economic system the country should follow.

The first approach is to raise more revenues to meet the Defence and Development of the country. The second, an ideological one, is designed to further the country towards the ultimate goal of the present Government of establishing full-fledged socialist economy.

"Consequently the Government will be the sole repository of the wealth of the country. Whether this type of economy is called Socialist, Sarvodaya or Communist makes no difference, the people will ultimately become the servants of an all powerful monolithic on Party Government." — Mr. Vaidya added.

This proposal of the super-profit Tax and Surcharge on firms, will affect all classes of people, but the middle class and the salaried class will be faced with serious deficit. They will be penalised for the risk they have taken in investing in industries that have developed in recent years in the country.

SWATANTRA VICTORY AT DOHAD

Contesting the Lok Sabha seat in the Dohad by-elections, the Swatantra Party candidate, Mr. Parshottamdas Haribhai Bhil, a young graduate clerk of a firm in Baroda, romped home to victory, defeating his Congress rival, Mr. Narsibhai Kanjibhai Hatilal.

The figures of polling are as under:

Electorate:	4,43,608
Total votes polled:	1,56,135
Mr. P. H. Bhil (Swat.)	76,690
Mr. N. K. Hathilal (Con.)	65,425
Invalid votes:	11,120
Majority:	14,265

CALL FOR OPPOSITION UNITY

Leaders of five political parties have issued a joint appeal to all non-Communist forces to unite in defeating the Congress-Communist axis.

The joint statement calling for opposition unity

issued by Col. Pasricha (Swatantra Party), Prof. Balraj Madhok (Jan Sangh), Shri Brij Mohan Toofan (P.S.P.), Shri N. L. Kanodia (Forward Bloc), S. Jaswant Singh (Akali Dal) and Shri N. N. Datta, read:

"The forthcoming by-elections will provide an opportunity to the people to give their verdict on the disastrous and humiliating China policy of the Government of India. It is significant that the Communist Party of India has decided to support the Congress in all the by-elections."

It is heartening to note that the nationalist opposition parties have decided to contest these elections. At this juncture a split of the opposition vote through multi-corner contests will only help the Communists and encourage pro-Communist elements in the Congress.

We, therefore, appeal to all non-Communist opposition parties to support a common candidate in each constituency in order to give a straight fight to the Congress-Communist combine."

Communalism exploited by Congress

The Congress has played the tune of Communalism in replacing Professor Ram Saran by Hafiz Mohammad Ibrahim, at the Amroha constituency as it has a large number of Muslim votes.

Congress High Command's decision to change its nominee, at the last minute, for the Amroha by-election, has been severely criticised by the Opposition Party leaders.

The Opposition Party leaders demanded Mr. K. D. Malavia's immediate resignation, as he has used his status to obtain funds, from a firm in Calcutta, to swell Congress funds at the time of elections.

RAJKOT BY-ELECTIONS

Mr. M. R. Masani, the All India General Secretary is contesting the by-elections from the Rajkot constituency. Extracts from the letter of Mr. Madhu N. Metha, General Secretary Bombay Region, make interesting reading. "The way the Parliamentary by-election in Rajkot is being conducted by the ruling party is amazing. That one of the top leaders of the Gujarat Congress Mr. Vajubhai Shah, should indulge in personal propaganda against Mr. M. R. Masani, Swatantra Party candidate bespeaks of the low standards of the political ethics of the Congress in this part of the country."

Mr. Vajubhai Shah was once a member of the Congress Socialist Party and working under Mr. Masani.

Another Congress leader, the Union Minister for International Trade Mr. Manubhai Shah, is reported to have said that Mr. Masani is an enemy of Mr. Nehru. Both these gentlemen are considered to be the leaders of the Congress in Gujarat and they should behave themselves in public from the point of view of democratic education."

Extract from Mr. M. R. Masani's repartee, to these allegations published in the press read:

"There is a report of a speech made in the Rajkot Constituency by Mr. Manubhai Shah in the course

of which he is reported to have accused me of 'bearing personal malice against the Prime Minister'.

I have no reason to bear any personal malice against Mr. Jawaharlal Nehru. I have had the privilege of being a friend and a colleague of his as far back as the 'thirties when Mr. Manubhai Shah had not even appeared on the political scene'.

Unfortunately, there has been a basic difference of opinions between Mr. Nehru and myself for the past several years in regard to the real nature of international communism. There is nothing unusual about this intellectual cleavage between us since it is to be found among political thinkers in all parts of the world. It is also natural that this cleavage should have an opportunity to express itself over and over again on the burning issues of the day in regard to international relations and their domestic implications. Thus when Tibet was attacked by the Chinese Communist armies in 1950 and I denounced that action as an incipient threat to India's security, the Prime Minister brushed aside my warning as alarmist. Today even a child can judge whether it was I who was being an alarmist or the Prime Minister who was being an escapist.

Similarly, when Hungary was being overrun by Soviet Tanks and my friend Jayaprakash Narain and I formed the Indian Committee for Solidarity with Hungary, Pandit Nehru criticised us. Similarly, I had to incur the Prime Minister's wrath for drawing attention to the neglect of the country's defences against the threat of the Communist China in my speeches in Parliament in 1960 and 1961. A threat which unfortunately materialised in September 1962.

Mr. Manubhai Shah may not know that on November 7, last year when the Chinese armies were advancing in our territory and the Prime Minister had given the call for National resistance, I had called on him to express to him my personal goodwill in his difficult task and to offer him any little help I could give and he had been good enough to accept my offer graciously.

NARASIMHA REDDY ON ANTI-SECESSION BILL

This Bill which seeks to put an end to the cry of secession in India is quite a laudable one though it seriously interferes with the right of free speech guaranteed by the Constitution.

The temptation to amend the Constitution to meet the exigencies of every passing situation is a sacrilege on the Constitution drafted by our elders after great thought and deliberation.

Means other than amending the Constitution should be sought to counteract the forces of disintegration as are envisaged today.

The Bill in the main seems to be directed against the secessionist activities in Madras which pose a serious threat to the hegemony of the Congress in that Province.

The proper way to meet this menace is the electoral forum, where the hollowness of its reasoning should be convincingly exposed before the masses.

The D. M. K. is a peaceful organisation sworn to democratic methods. It has announced that it would not raise the cry of Dravidanad during the period of emergency. The Prime Minister has announced that the emergency may last even for 50 years. So for fifty years, this cry of Dravidanad would not be pressed.

The D. M. K. is co-operating with the war efforts. The present Bill is not a proper gesture. It might drive the D. M. K. organisation underground and the remedy proposed may be worse than the evil.

This is my opinion, that the introduction of this Bill is inopportune and may therefore be put off.

Let it be clearly understood that I am against all forces of disintegration, whether of secession or of the extra-territorial variety or of Hindi Imperialism—all of which if unrestricted would spell disaster to our country.

NEHRU AND THE SWATANTRA PARTY

Of late, the Swatantra Party seems to be the focal point of Mr. Nehru's reviling attacks. His bitter criticism of the Party in his speeches throughout the country, bears testimony to that. Rajaji, referring to Nehru's criticism, of the party and himself, has written in the 'Swarajya'.

"Referring to me and the Swatantra Party, the Prime Minister said that the road I have chalked out will take the country nowhere. God willing, I affirm that the road I have chalked out will take the people to real Swaraj and out of the demoralizing and painful entanglement of permits, licences and quotas.

The people of India are being trained in the fatal habit of depending on the Government and becoming acclimatized to the intimidation of officials, ministers and go-betweens, and to accept corruption as a way of life. The PM and everyone that speaks for the Congress today are concentrating their attacks on the Swatantra Party; this is an unconscious tribute to, and recognition of, the impress of the Party on national life and thought. The totalitarian regime has reduced everyone else to mute submission. Hence the concentrated attack on the Swatantra Party. Our mission has not been a failure. It has a great future. The Communist Party is wholly and devotedly with the present Congress regime is a demonstration of the danger that is before the country.

Shri Nehru said he would wish the Congress Party dissolved rather than live on, forsaking its ideals. Therein truth has found its vent through Shri Nehru's voice. The Congress Party has long ago forsaken all its ideals and everyone knows this. None so much as Shri Nehru himself. If a miracle could bring back the abandoned ideals of the Congress to enliven it again, who would oppose it except the Communists? Too long have Congress Party men enjoyed power, authority over the people in an extended, all-embracing shape and size, and the consequent corruption has gone far too deep for any miracle of conversion to take place. The only miracle that can happen is that Shri Nehru should give up the Congress, and then of course we can expect great things. But he too has got used to the corruption and his nerves do not rebel against it now, as they once did. If he gives up this party, its corruption, itself, is enough to break it to pieces."

TANJORE DISTRICT CONFERENCE

Rajaji, addressed the Tanjore District Agriculturist and Merchants Conference. A report appearing in the *Hindu* reads:

"The Communist Party in India, he (Rajaji) said, was in a great difficulty because of the premature Chinese invasion. Their prestige in the country was gone and they hoped to retrieve it by joining the Congress, though the latter had not asked for it. But people must not be deceived by the pretensions of the Communists. Ten years ago, they reigned supreme in Tanjore district. To relieve the poverty of the Pannaiyals, and undermine the Communist hold on them, Rajaji said, he introduced the Pannaiyals Act, which frustrated their ambitions.

"The Communists were seeking to be strange bed-fellows of the Congress and also tried to camouflage their real intentions. In the present context it was becoming increasingly difficult for the ordinary citizen to realise the truth."

Referring to gold control, Rajaji said that, the Government's promise to absorb the misplaced craftsmen in other occupations was like setting a house ablaze and then digging for water. It had been held by great economists that the gold with the people in our country was the best safeguard against the tremendous inflation of paper currency. It was a national asset if left with the people.

Speaking on the budget proposals, Rajaji said that the super profits tax would kill all incentive and stifle industries to promote which the Government had launched the Five-Year Plans.

Reproduced below is an extract from a letter from Mr. S. S. Mariswamy, General Secretary, Madras Region of the Swatantra Party. The contents of this letter gives a vivid picture of Communist activities against us.

"Our Conference at Nagapattinam was a grand success in spite of all the threats of the Communists. The General Secretary of the Communist Party of India Tamiland Branch issued a statement threatening that he would stage a black flag demonstration of 50,000 strong to obstruct this conference. This did create quite a stir, but it did not deter us from holding it. As scheduled the conference was held on March 24, 1963. A massive audience far beyond our expectations gathered. The Communists did stage a protest in the form of a procession but it comprised only 4,000 to 5,000 men."

GEORGE TOWN MEETING, MADRAS

Rajaji, Saw Ganesan, President of the Tamil Nad Swatantra Party and Leader of the Swatantra Group in the Legislative Assembly, addressed a large gathering at George Town on Sunday, March 10, 1963.

Mr. Saw Ganesan sharply criticised the motive of some Congressmen who made a plea in the Legislature to search Rajaji's house and imprison him under the Defence of India Rules. Mr. Saw Ganesan said, "As the President of the Swatantra Party in the State, I throw this challenge to the Ruling Party — anybody may come and search my house. But will the leader of the Congress Party in the State, or the President of the A.I.C.C. allow a Government search of their houses?"

Rajaji received a long ovation of thundering applause and cheer to his repartee to the question posed by some Congressmen, as to whether he could run the administration without any new taxes. He challenged the Ruling Party that he would run the

administration without any necessity of new taxation if he is given the power of administrative machinery. He explained at length the hardship this new taxation would impose on almost all the people, especially the poor and the middle class. Speaking of the Congressmen who craved his arrest, he said Mr. P. K. Mookiah had very aptly stated in his speech earlier delivered at the meeting, that the character of his critics was not anti-national, but it was an attack on the follies of the Ruling Party in power.

On March 17, 1963 a meeting was held at Thyagarayanagar which was addressed by Rajaji, T. L. Sasivarna Thevar, M.L.A., Kr. Kariamamambalam, M.L.A.

At this mammoth meeting Rajaji asked those among the large body of men and women who were opposed to the budget to demonstrate their dissent by raising their hands. A large majority did so.

Mr. T. L. Sasivarna Thevar requested the people to send a postcard each dissenting against the new levy.

TOWN HALL MEETING, BANGALORE

Mr. Minoo R. Masani, the General Secretary of the Swatantra Party addressed a meeting at the Town-Hall Bangalore and said that, from April everybody will be the poorer by 10 per cent, because owing to the new taxes, everything will cost 10 per cent more.

The super profit tax, he averred, will carp at business aggressiveness and shy away foreign capital. It will deal a mortal blow to the concept of joint stock system. Business houses with small capital structures such as banks will be hit, and in turn enterprises depending upon them would suffer.

Analysing the reactions of the super-profit tax further, Mr. Masani said that, labour would cease to get its bonus, and the common man after all the taxes are cut is seen to have only two to three per cent of the dividend.

Mr. B. V. Narayana Reddy, in his speech from the chair, said that, the levy of Salt Tax would yield Rs. 55 crores and its uniform imposition on so large a populace would not make it burdensome.

Mr. V. Srinivasan, Secretary, State Swatantra Party, welcomed the gathering. In his speech he referred to the Gold Order, as "making an in-road into Article 19, of Fundamental Rights, in the Constitution." The Defence of India rule had placed this order above the normal course of the Judiciary. He said Rajaji's remark, that the people who revolted against British rule appear to have become cowards when the so-called elected representatives of our own people, in power, are guilty of acts of tyranny, is used with justification.

Mr. P. H. Seshagiri Rao proposed a vote of thanks.

We Said it in Parliament RANGA

Speech on Defence, April 5.

The Defence Ministry should be re-organised to be made more compact. There is need to start more

training colleges and centres. A permanent Committee of Senior Army Officers should be formed to keep a watch over the army expenditure in different departments. Welfare activities should be increased.

Large grants have been made to the Defence Ministry. A Committee should be appointed to examine all estimates and execution of expenditure.

A separate Himalayan Army Division equipped with modern weapons and acquainted with high altitudes should be formed for the border areas. Simultaneously the Air Force and the Navy must be strengthened; military intelligence made more effective and forceful.

There is failure to ensure adequate air-protection to Delhi and other developed areas. From the Press and various Ministers, it has been learnt that negotiations for military equipment and likewise are going on with England and America. An approximate figure of the amount required should be stated.

England and America want a settlement to be reached over Kashmir because they do not want India to be fighting on two fronts. Russia may be neutral, but, it is the West that has positively come to our assistance. The Prime Minister is correct in stating, that they should come as our friends and not as our masters, and that has been the pattern of their behaviour in Korea.

The Army feels most humiliated, as does the country by the set backs suffered on the border. The services have felt let down both during the crisis and by the kind of political military leadership that they were given a few years prior.

The Government allowed the Defence Minister to import politics, groupism, favouritism and personal idiosyncracies into the Army, thus lowering discipline and morale. In England and other countries army organisation and internal management is in the hands of top army personnel. The Defence Minister is not expected to interfere.

Some people have suggested that the former Defence Minister be impeached. What is the use of picking on one Minister, when the whole government is at fault.

P. K. DEO

Speech on Transport and Communication

In a rapidly developing industrial country, roads waterways and air services as means of communication are most important.

In India road mileage is most inadequate. There are 48,000 miles of road for a total land area of 1½ million square miles. Two-thirds of these are unsurfaced. Only 15,000 miles are national highways of which 2300 miles are of dual carriage width. Even this road mileage cannot be fully utilised because of incomplete constructions such as bridges fording rivers. Highways constructed under the Community Development and National Extension schemes are next to useless.

The Chief Engineers in their report for 20 years road plan have requested a grant of Rs. 590 crores to be provided in the Third Plan period. This amount should be granted. The recommendations of the Masani Committee should not be thawed till the

report of the Neogy Committee. The production target of 60,000 commercial vehicles should be considered the minimum.

The automobile and the commercial vehicle which contributes Rs. 200 crores and will be contributing an additional 54 crores to the public exchequer should not be subjected to heavy taxation. Mr. Raj Bahadur in a statement made on October 22, 1962, at the Road and Inland Water Transport Advisory Committee, made a strong appeal for tax relief.

To ensure better Air Service facilities, Delhi must have two separate airports, for civilian and military use, especially because of the emergency. The suggestion of a large air-port to be built at Ghaziabad exclusively for the military is highly recommendable.

The Air-terminal building and the defective runway at Santa Cruz as pointed out by the Estimate Committee and Shri Thirmala is no compliment to the Director of Civil Aviation. If this construction had been a private enterprise endeavour the management would have been immediately held responsible either by the share-holders or by the Law Administration.

(At this instance an interesting argument took place between Dr. L. M. Singhvi (Jodhpur) who said, "Company law politics is different", to which Mr. P. K. Deo replied, "I do not know, but if they have got a separate standard for the public sector undertakings.....but reason argues," that the public undertakings should be answerable to the general public, that is, the tax payer.)

Bottleneck in road transport would be lessened, if national highways were opened up to vehicles of 33,000 lbs. on two axles and driveways were widened. Bridges should be constructed, and road off-shoots should lead to every village and town skirting the main road.

Negligence is overwhelming. At the Nagpur airport, an air-conditioning plant lies without being installed, as do precision approach radar instruments, at Bombay and Dum-Dum air-ports.

Shipping operation costs are rising. Continuous falling of draught in the Hoogli river cut down operations in the port of Calcutta, by 50 per cent.

On the Eastern coast, Paradip should be developed as an intermediate port. It has the rich iron ore hinterland of Orissa. This mineral to-day is India's premier foreign exchange earner.

P. K. GHOSH

Speech on Steel and Heavy Industry, April 4.

The careless and indifferent nature of the reports supplied by the Ministry of Steel and Heavy Industry to the Members of Parliament is worth noting. Certain cases have been repeated, and some portions drastically cut.

Most of the undertakings of this Ministry are running at a loss. For example, Hindustan Steel has incurred a loss of Rs. 40 crores. Broadly analysing the reasons, Mr. Ghosh said that the cadre of managerial personell in the Public Sector are by and large incompetent. Corruption has become monstrous. Loss due to shortage of raw material has been quoted at Rs. 1.50 crores and that on finished products at

Rs. 1.75 crores. These figures are constantly on the increase — in 1959-60 they were Rs. 47 lakhs; in 1960-61 Rs. 57 lakhs. Investigations are being conducted but hardly anyone is brought to book.

The report also shows large amounts being written off as bad and doubtful debts. The Ministry has developed an ingenious method for explaining losses as "teething trouble". Such losses should surely be limited. Favouritism and graft have retarded efficiency, and furthered discontentment and frustration.

Against the large sums of public money which have been invested, the accounts from public undertakings are meagre and most inadequate. Important recommendations made by the first Estimates Committee have not been heeded. There is a time lag in training technical manpower, developing ore mines and quarries and transport; to cope with the situation a longer span than five years has been constantly solicited by economists and industrialists.

It was decided quite some time ago to have a high-power committee of parliamentarians to screen the workings of the public sector, but no such step has been taken.

Mr. Ghosh said the desirability of a fourth steel plant at Bokaro is questionable. Mr. M. A. Fiennes, President of U. K. Iron and Steel at Jamshedpur has said, "India would be well advised to expand her existing steel plants and not to establish any new units in view of the shortage of technical and managerial manpower." He emphasised two principal weaknesses in the planning of India; severe shortage of trained personnel and lack of capital and foreign exchange.

Bottle-necks in transport hamper industrial development. The Government, it seems, is acting under the influence of interested parties who want to preserve their monopoly; it has even shelved the scheme to manufacture small cars.

C. L. NARASIMHA

Speech on the Railway Budget

While appreciating the Railway Minister's statement on the general operational efficiency of the Railways this year having greatly improved, there remain a few changes and irregularities which should receive attention.

Rayalseema, in Andhra Pradesh, an area rich in minerals, has no proper rail-track. A little over a decade ago, a scheme to lay a track for Nandyal to Chittoor via Cuddapah, Rayachoty, Madanapalle and Palamner was drawn up but unfortunately it had been shelved. This area is also very susceptible to famines and in times of scarcity a railway line would be a means of rendering quicker relief.

The number of accidents, in general have definitely decreased, but in the Guntakal Division they still remain high. The cause may be traced to indolence and to dereliction of duty amongst the officials, whose infrequent transfers tend to make them lethargic.

While conversing with numerous personnel of the

Railways, Mr. Narasimha said that he learnt that promotions in the Engineering Department compared to those in other sections are slow and often unjust. This has resulted in considerable amount of frustration amongst the men. This department could be considered as the centralising force of efficient Railway operation.

Speaking for better amenities and service for passengers in travel, the Parliamentarian said that the Pakala-Dhamavaram track sadly lacked retiring rooms. The present structures have not been improved upon for almost a hundred and fifty years. Bridges over rail-tracks now cutting across busy thoroughfares in towns should be built. On long Madras run, for, during the summer the corridor coaches, are apt to get heated easily. The catering in the dining cars seem to have deteriorated to an appalling degree. The inspecting officers must be more vigilant.

DHANNA SINGH GULSHAN

Speech on Home Affairs, March 29

Corruption has become rampant in the country, and it must be deterred. He referred to the Bhakra scandal and to the other scandals which shook the dignity of the nation and said that in none of these exploitations, the brains behind the evil were arrested. A few days back a newspaper had reported that the Congress President of Bikaner District had been arrested by the police as he was found to be a fellow-traveller of the dacoits.

Referring to the Schedule Castes, Sardar Gulshan said that, the matter has received far too much opinion and too little understanding or execution.

Last year taxes amounting to Rs. 8 crores were imposed in the Punjab, for the betterment of the Schedule Castes. This sum lies unaccounted.

The lot of the Harijan and the Schedule Caste to a positive degree has deteriorated as unemployment is steadily on the increase; Ceiling on land holdings and some tracks of land laid waste by the floods, have plagued the cultivators; the shop-keepers have been hounded by taxes, and labour also has to work under certain limitations. The bare necessities of life, food, clothing and shelter are still in want for 80% of the Schedule Caste.

Speaking on safe-guarding of the interest of the minorities, Sardar Dhanna Singh Gulshan said that the Sikhs would appreciate an agreement being reached in the Sachar and the Regional Formula. Religious sentiments should be respected.

Release of the Punjab Communist Leader Mr. Teja Singh, Swatantra, on grounds of "assurance to work for the security of the country", stands a sharp contrast to the continued detention of the Akali Leader Hazara Singh Gill and Jathedar Mohan Singh, who could also give similar assurances. This action does not stand as a compliment to the Government.

REGIONAL PARTY NEWS

MAHARASHTRA BOMBAY REGION

Mr. Piloo Mody, Vice-Chairman, Bombay, commenting on Mr. George Fernandez' arrest said that, while members of public and various political parties were being brought under the anvil of the Defence of India Rules, at no time had a Congressman been involved; hence, instead of Mr. George Fernandez misusing trade unionism it seemed the Government was misusing its mandatory powers.

The Swatantra Cultural League, Bandra, held an Annual Easter Regatta, in which several fisherfolk and local citizens participated. A Challenge Trophy and six cups were given away. Another interesting item, in a lighter vein was the "Live Duck Dip". Swimmers had to catch ducks let of in the sea, and the prize was the duck itself.

Mr. Piloo Mody presided and Dr. (Mrs.) Shantabai Gulabchand gave away the prizes. The Trophy and cups were donated by Mr. and Mrs. A. B. Vakil.

Mr. Fred Fernandez welcomed the guests.

The League had also started a Free Library. A Child Welfare Centre at Khar was inaugurated by Mrs. Panday. Mr. Santos, the League Secretary and Mr. Koppiker were present. A Social had been held earlier at which 23 prizes were given away.

The Colaba Unit, held a symposium at the Party Office, on the 'Future of Democracy in India'. Initiating the symposium, Mrs. Sosan Panday said that the future of Democracy lay in well-organised Opposition Parties and in conscientious work by the members. Mr. S. V. Raju stated that there should be a minimum educational qualification amongst the voters, the Panchayat Raj introduced in the villages was a sham and it further crippled the peasantry from giving fair and free vote. Mr. Godrej Dotivala, stressed that corruption had become rampant, and the Constitution, which is the safeguard of the people has already been amended fourteen times. Mr. R. V. Raghavan stated that all the Opposition Parties except the Communists must unite, enter into electoral alliances on an all-India basis and try to reduce the overwhelming majority of the Congress in the Lok Sabha.

Sir Cowasji Jehangir presided.

NASIK

A meeting of the members of the Nasik Unit was held at the Party office on April 6, 1963. The President Mr. R. D. Kulkarni discussed organisation details with the workers, and a drive for membership is to be launched.

DELHI

The Swatantra Club held a meeting in the Party Office and elected the following Office Bearers to the Executive Committee:

President: Smt. Kailash Rekhi,
Vice-President: Mr. S. Man Singh,
Secretary: Mr. R. Arya,
Commander A. K. Mukerjee

Members: Colonel H. R. Pasricha, Mr. S. N. Rekhi, Mr. B. S. Gupta, Mr. K. N. Gupta, Mr. N. N. Tiwari, Pandit Dev Raj Sharma, Mr. B. S. Mehta.

The Executive Committee, which met later adopted a resolution condemning the stultifying effect of the budget on industry in general.

The Committee has also distributed a large number of pamphlets on subjects of interest, like "How shall we deal with this budget?" "Goldsmith Distress", by Rajaji, and "Free Economy and Wealth of Nations", by Colonel H. R. Pasricha. The pamphlets were printed both in English and in Hindi. Posters were displayed all over Delhi and also in some of neighbouring villages.

MYSORE

The Executive Committee of Malleswaram Constituency completed two years.

Apart from numerous annual members there are 150 life members on the role. Rajaji to mark the advent of the third year has sent a message inspiring them to greater buoyancy.

The following eighteen office bearers have been unanimously elected:

President: Sri Chhotubhai Desai

Vice-Presidents: Sri B. H. Sanjeevappa
Dr. I. S. Patel.

Secretary: Sri K. N. V. Rao

Treasurer: Sri S. Krishnaswami

Members: Sri D. V. Anantharaman
" R. S. Easak
" M. R. Janardhana
" R. R. Komandur
" M. S. Narayana Rao Takke
" R. N. Narasimhamurthy
" M. A. Parthasarathy
" K. S. Ramachandra Rao
" D. S. Sathyanarayana Rao
" M. L. S. Sastri
" R. Sethuram
" H. Subramaniam
Smt. M. Kumadavathi.

The Malleswaram Constituency organised a Public Meeting over which Mr. H. Rama Raj Urs, presided.

Mr. S. V. Kasimutt, the leader of the Swatantra Party in the Mysore Assembly while addressing the gathering asked for a reduction in the size of the cabinet and said that the parade of pomp and pageantry of the Congressmen, and their distribution of patronage to their own were in sharp contrast to the poverty and distress of the masses. He said that Prohibition has proved a failure in which the Mysore State has lost revenue to the extent of about Rs. 10 crores. This serious drain must be stopped.

Mr. Chaima Byre Gowda, another Swatantra M.L.A. said that while Rs. 270 crores of additional taxation is being raised, the army of Congress Ministers are indulging in luxurious living at the cost of the Government. Allowances and other material benefits far outstaid the salary drawn.

Sri Gowda spoke of the stolidity of the policy of nationalisation and remarked that in Mysore State alone a sum of Rs. 12 crores was invested in Government Transport Undertaking which showed an annual profit of Rs. 65 lakhs only.

PUNJAB

Jathedar Udharn Singh Nagoke addressed the Defence Sahayik Committee inaugurated by Mr. Y. B. Chawan when over a lac of people had assembled.

Jathedar Udharn Singh Nagoke, averred that, the Punjabi to a man would give only his best for the protection of the country and for the wellbeing of the Jawan and his family. But without equivocation he warned the Government that the exploitation of this sentiment would not be tolerated. Contributions collected, in whatever form, should be used for the specifically mentioned purpose only.

The Swatantra leader criticised the agrarian policy of the government, and discussed various other matters which were a source of grievance to the populace.

The assemblage gave him a thundering applause.

An emergent meeting of the State Committee was convened in the Party Office at Patiala on March 31. Several resolutions were adopted.

A Finance Raising Sub-Committee, comprising of seven member has also been formed. Each member has been asked to submit their suggestion for consideration of the Sub-Committee before its next meeting.

RAJASTHAN

The Budget Session of the Rajasthan Assembly gave over on April 5, 1963. A large number of cut motions were raised by almost all the M.L.A.s of the Swatantra Party. A retired District and Sessions Judge, Mr. Amar Singh, M.L.A., from Pachpadra constituency (Independent) has become a member of the Swatantra Party.

To further the Party cause, Maharawal Laxman Singhji and Maharani Gayatri Devi toured Shri Ganganagar District. On April 4, they addressed a large public meeting in Ganganagar City. The leaders were given a warm ovation. A week before their visit, Mr. Ayuwani Singhji, Organising Secretary, of the Rajasthan Unit, toured the entire district of Shri Ganganagar, and whipped up organisational work.

Meetings of the workers of the Swatantra Party were also convened at the towns of Shri Ganganagar and Hanumangarh on April 4, and April 5, respectively. The Adhoc Committee of the Ganganagar District has been formed.

The State Unit at the moment is absorbed with selecting and sponsoring candidates of the Swatantra Party for contesting by-elections. Three Assembly seats have been declared vacant in Rajasthan, two in Kotak and one in Ajmer.

In the Vidhan Sabha

R. N. SINGH DEO

Orissa State Budget

The Chief Minister had himself admitted that the per capita income of the people of Orissa is perhaps the lowest in the country. This fresh levy of purchase and sales tax, will raise the tax rates by 3%.

Wasteful and unproductive Government endeavours should be eroded.

Instead of maintaining a state of 'status quo until an All-India policy on the subject and particularly the question of recouping the loss likely to be incurred by the introduction of Prohibition is decided the Chief Minister should have had the courage to scrap it.' He was himself a member of the Resources Sub-Committee of the State Development Advisory Board, which had unanimously recommended that prohibition should be scrapped.

The drought situation now effecting a major portion of the State had been referred by the Chief Minister as "unprecedented". But the figures of failing crops quoted by him stand to correction.

A rush, by the State in the direction of public ownership has been noticed. Mr. R. N. Singh Deo, said, ".....that out of 1000 crores already invested in the public sector by the Centre, the expected return this year is only 1 crore 45 lakhs as against 1 crore 32 lakhs last year." Mr. Deo quoted Milton Friedman who on a recent visit to India, expressed the opinion, that, Government enterprises were bad because they 'did not admit mistakes but continued to subsidise them'. The future of India the professor stated lies in the hands of millions of small entrepreneurs and not in big corporations on centralised governmental planning.

An Assembly Committee as earlier suggested in the Vidhan Sabha, should be set up to screen State owned autonomous corporations.

The Government's stolid attitude towards non-alignment was costing the country dearly. Mr. Deo said that, the Swatantra Party had been cautioning the people continuously against these governmental policies, and narrated a clause of the Swatantra Party resolution adapted by the General Council on February 10, 1963.

"The Swatantra Party feels that taking ad-hoc aid and assistance will not meet the situation. The limited resources of the country do not permit us to indulge in the hope of any success in isolated effort. Any vacillation or hesitation in seeking cooperation from friendly powers abroad and the attempt, through oppressive and intolerable taxation, to cope with the situation would be most dangerous."

"The ultimate defence of the country is in the mental and moral vigour of the people and this will be disastrously undermined by inflationary policies, soaring prices and ever increasing taxation that will develop as a consequence of the Government's present policies."

(For Private Circulation)